MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 3017 State Transport Buses in Maharashtra which are used to send mails every day.

(b) Yes, Sir. State Transport Buses have their own parcel Scheme. But there is no difficulty in using such buses for conveyance of mails. The mails are conveyed from Nagpur, Wardha to Aurangabad, Jalna and Nanded in a combination of transit sections functioning in trains and State Transport buses.

(c) No State Transport Bus is used from Nagpur for conveyance of specialised services like speed post mails. Such buses are used only for conveyance of other mails.

गुजरात में डाक और तारघरों का खोला जाना

1707. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात के कच्छ जिले में कितनी ग्राम पंचायतों में डाक और तारघर खोले जाने संबंधी प्रस्ताव विचारधीन है,

(ख) आज की तारीख की स्थिति के अनुसार उक्त जिले में कितनी ग्राम पंचायतों में डाक और तारघर की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं,

(ग) चालू वर्ष के दौरान कच्छ जिले के अंतर्गत आने वाले विभिन्न गांवों में डाक और तारघर खोलने हेतु क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है,

(घ) इतनी बड़ी आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए वित्तीय संसाधन किस प्रकार जुटाये जाने की संभावना है, और

(ड़) इस जिलें में सभी गांवों में डाक और तारघर की सुविधा सुनिश्चित करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात के कच्छ जिले की ग्राम पंचायतों में डाक व तारघर खोलने का कोई प्रस्तावा विचारधीन नहीं है ।

(ख) गुजरात के कच्छ जिले की ऐसी ग्राम पंचायतों की संख्या, जिनमें आज की तारीख तक डाक व तार सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं, 44 हैं ।

(ग) और (घ) चालू वर्ष के दौरान कच्छ जिले के विभिन्न गांवों में डाक व तारघर खोलने के लिए कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है ।

(ड़) **डाकघर :** कच्छ जिले के सभी गांवों में डाकघर खोलने की कोई योजना नहीं हैं । सरकार का उद्देश्य निर्धारित प्राथमिकताओं के अनुसार गांवों में डाकघर खोलना है बशर्ते कि दूरी, जनसंख्या और आय संबंधी मानदंड पूरे होते हों और संसाधन उपलब्ध रहें ।

तारघर : सभी गांवों में तार सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की विभाग की कोई नीति नहीं हैं क्योंकि यह सुविधा केवल तभी प्रदान की जाती है जब निर्धारित मानदंडों और अनुमानित तार परियात के आधार पर इसका औचित बनता हो ।

Delay in Delivery of Letters

1708 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the delivery of letters is delayed at destination itself for more than two days; and

(b) what steps are being taken for delivery of letters on the next day in cities of each of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Norms to assess the efficiency of mail services with a view to take remedial measures have been laid down which are as follows:—

(i) PIN-coded letters posted in Metro cities namely Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore and meant for delivery in another Metro city are to be delivered within 48 hours after the day of posting.

(ii) PIN-coded letters between Delhi and State Capitals other than the Metro cities mentioned at (i) above are to be delivered within 48 to 72 hours after the day of posting.

(iii) Letters between cities connected by air flights, other than those

mentioned at (i) and (ii) above are to be delivered within 72 hours after the day of posting.

(iv) Letters within a State are to be delivered within 48-72 hourse after the day of posting.

(v) Letters within a District are to be delivered within 48 hours after the day of posting.

These broad norms are adhered to only when mail carrying trains, planes, buses and other transport run to their published schedule.

Remedial steps are taken where systemic delays are noticed and field officials are instructed to closely monitor transmission and delivery of mails.

Strcngth of Postal Staff in Delhi

1709. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal employees in Delhi were in a go-slow' undeclared strike recently; if so, what is the duration and main grievances of the employees;

(b) what is the present strength of postal employees for Delhi during each of last three years and the staff strength added each year; and

(c) whether Government have taken note of press reports to the effect that lakhs of letters and cards are not delivered in Delhi and are destroyed; and if so, the steps taken to prevent this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Railway Mail Service (RMS) staff of Delhi Circle resorted to refusal of overtime duty from October 17, 1995. The agitation was called off on November 3, 1995. The reasons for agitation by the RMS staff in Delhi was non-payment of overtime allowance because of non-availability of funds.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government has taken due note of the press reports in this connection. Special steps were taken to clear accumulated mail by streamlining the functioning of mail offices, strengthening sorting work in Post Offices, and by effective supervision and monitoring. There were no instances of destruction of mails.

Average Output of Sorting Assistants

1710. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the average output of Sorting Assistants in a span of duty of 8 hours including half an hour rest in each RMS Division in Maharashtra Circle, Delhi Circle, West Bengal Circle in any week in December, 1994 and May, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): The average output of sorting assistants in a span of duty of 8 hours including half-an-hour rest in a week of six working days is 47,700.

Set to Set Transfer in Postal Circles

1711. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Circular dated 27th February, 1991 bearing No. 39-S91-D was issued by the Department of Posts on the question set to set transfer; and

(b) if so, whether it was implemented by RMS Division in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi Postal Circles; if so, what was the finding in each Circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Postal Circles including